

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of Claims shall replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

1-31. (Cancelled)

32. (Previously Presented) An electronic system comprising:

a first device for accessing a multimedia bit stream;

a second device coupled to said first device and for generating a command requesting a table describing information in said multimedia bit stream, said command comprising:

a plurality of attribute fields comprising:

a table field for specifying a table identifier; and

a multi-purpose field for specifying a select attribute related to a requested table; and

a flag field for identifying said select attribute from a plurality of attributes held by said multi-purpose field; and

in response to receiving said command, wherein said first device is operable to:

determine if said flag field indicates a rating region table is requested, and if so, use information in said multi-purpose field to provide said rating region table;

determine if said flag field indicates an event information table is requested, and if so, use information in said multi-purpose field to provide said event information table; and

determine if said flag field indicates an extended text table is requested, and if so, use information in said multi-purpose field to provide said extended text table.

33. (Previously Presented) The electronic system of Claim 32, wherein said first device comprises a tuner for receiving and decoding a digital television signal.

34. (Previously Presented) The electronic system of Claim 32, wherein said second device comprises a controller for issuing commands to said first device and processing information received from said first device.

35. (Previously Presented) The electronic system of Claim 32, wherein said second device is operable to set a flag indicating said table field is valid.

36. (Previously Presented) The electronic system of Claim 35, wherein said second device is further operable to set a value in said table field.

37. (Previously Presented) The electronic system of Claim 32, wherein said first device is further operable to provide a table identified by said table identifier in said table field if said flag field indicates a table identification is requested.

38. (Previously Presented) The electronic system of Claim 32, wherein said second device is further operable to set said flag field to specify which one of the plurality of attributes said multi-purpose field holds.

39. (Previously Presented) The electronic system of Claim 32, wherein said command is a direct select data command.

40. (Previously Presented) The electronic system of Claim 32, wherein said multi-purpose field is for specifying an attribute for one of a rating region table, an event information table, and an extended text table.

41. (Previously Presented) The electronic system of Claim 32, wherein said table identifier is operable to specify at least one of a master guide table, a terrestrial virtual channel table, a cable virtual channel table, a system time table, a rating region table, an event information table, and an extended text table.

42. (Previously Presented) The electronic system of Claim 32, wherein said plurality of attribute fields relate to at least one of programming information, rating information related to at least one geographic region, and an extended text message related to said bit stream.

43-46. (Cancelled)